

Governor's Commission on Family Farms
March 28, 2001

10:00 AM

Members present: Jim Naive, Chairman; Bill Atkins; Alice Woods Baesler; Ron D. Catchen; Sharon Furches; Kirby Hancock; Susan Harkins; Denise Hoffman; Janet Johnson; Luther Mason; William Brandon Reed; Secretary Allen Rose; Mike Stivers, representing Commissioner Billy Ray Smith; Bob Sparks and Bonnie Tanner.

Absent were: Karen Armstrong-Cummings; John Berry, Jr.; John-Mark Hack; Don Halcomb; Mark Haney; David Kash; Chris Kummer; Sylvia Lovely; Mattie Mack; Kenneth Mattingly; John S. Medley, Jr. and Al W. Pedigo .

Staff Present: Joel Neaveill and Angela Whitehouse

Guests included: Susan Goddard and Jodie Hughes with Workforce Development Cabinet, Louie Rivers with Kentucky State University, Harvey Mitchell and Scott Willett with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Chairman Naïve called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., Angela Whitehouse, Board Secretary called the roll.

Minutes were approved from previous meeting.

Joel Neaveill briefed members on the progress of the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Program directed by Hoppy Henton.

Ron Catchen, Chair of the Education Committee informed members the Governor's Farm Family Education Summit would be held on April 4th, 2001 at the Holiday Inn in Frankfort. A press release would go out upon conclusion of the Education Summit.

Jim Naïve, Chair encouraged that all members attend the summit and provide any ideas related to the education issues.

Mike Stivers commented that teaching farm families Spanish as a foreign language would continue to be an important issue with the ever increasing migrant farm workers population in Kentucky.

Jim Naïve, Chair introduced Harvey Mitchell and Scott Willett with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Harvey Mitchell and Scott Willett presented information from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and each divisions role within state government.

Mr. Mitchell highlighted points of interest within the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Marketing and Product Promotion Division. Specifically, Mr. Mitchell spoke about the continued success of the value-added programs.

Jim Naïve, Chair complimented the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for their presentation and expressed the gratitude of the commission for the information.

Susan Harkins updated members on the activities of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

Ms. Harkins commented that the Board continues to address policy issues as they arise. She encouraged commission members to forward innovative ideas to the Board.

Bonnie Tanner informed members that the Women in Agriculture conference would be held on November 1st and 2nd, 2001. The meeting location has not yet been determined. Ms. Tanner also informed members that the Farm Service Agency had recently approved some additional farmers markets to accept food stamps under the Woman, Infant, and Children (WIC) program.

Louie Rivers with Kentucky State University briefed members on the progress of the Aquaculture Research Farm. He also informed the Commission of an upcoming Bee Seminar being held at Kentucky State University presented by Tom Webster on September 21st.

➤ With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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